



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF  
ECOSYSTEMS,  
TRIBAL AND PUBLIC  
AFFAIRS

June 11, 2015

Candace McKinley  
Environmental Program Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Columbia-Cascades Area Office  
1917 Marsh Road  
Yakima, Washington 98901-2058

Dear Ms. McKinley:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Cle Elum Pool Raise (EPA Project Number: 13-0037-BOR) in Kittitas County, Washington.

In our comments on the draft EIS in November 2014, the EPA expressed concerns about the proposed project's potential impacts to water quality, wetlands, riparian areas, and habitat. We recommended that the Bureau of Reclamation work with federal and state agencies to assure wise use of water resources and protection of other resources in the analysis area, including fisheries. Because of potential seismic risks, we also requested additional information on seismicity in the area.

The FEIS is responsive to our request for updated information on permit applications and outcomes of work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. Specifically, we are pleased to note that the FEIS includes the intent to implement all recommended measures to protect fish and other species and their habitats from project impacts, the intent to conduct more inspections, and include monitoring requirements in the Record of Decision for the project. We also support the Bureau of Reclamation's selection of Alternative 3 for this project, as it includes more protection for shoreline sites and associated resources compared to the other alternatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this FEIS. If you have questions about our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at [reichgott.christine@epa.gov](mailto:reichgott.christine@epa.gov) or contact Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322 or by electronic mail at [mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov](mailto:mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christine B. Reichgott", is positioned above the typed name.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit